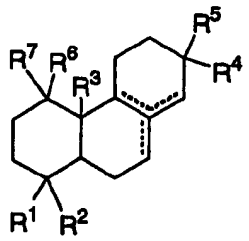
IN THE CLAIMS

1. - 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A Method of opening potassium channels, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula [I]:



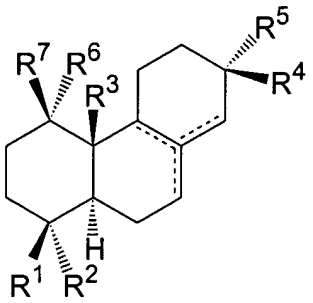
(I)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^4 and R^5 may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R^6 and R^7 may be bonded to each other to form a ring;

and all of three bonds represented by ---- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds,

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a mammal including a human in need thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the compound is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R^2 is hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, acyl, carboxyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide or nitrile;

R^1, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^4 and R^5 may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R^6 and R^7 may be bonded to each other to form a ring;

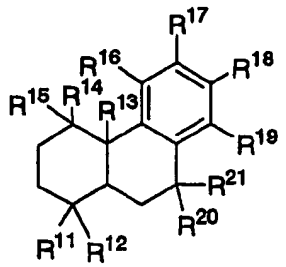
and all of three bonds represented by ---- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein R^1, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are alkyl or alkenyl, R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen and R^2 is carboxyl, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the compound is a substance selected from the group consisting of the following compounds: (1) a compound wherein R^1 is alkyl, R^2 is carboxyl, R^3 is alkyl, R^4 is alkenyl, R^5 is alkyl, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, (2) a compound wherein R^1 is alkyl, R^2 is carboxyl, R^3 is alkyl, R^4 is alkyl, R^5 is alkenyl, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, and (3) a compound wherein R^1 is alkyl, R^2 is carboxyl, R^3 is alkyl, R^4 is alkyl, R^5 is alkyl, and R^6 and R^7 are hydrogen, and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein the compound is a substance selected from the group consisting of pimaric acid, dihydropimaric acid, dihydroisopimarinol, sandaracopimaric acid, isopimaric acid, and dihydroisopimaric acid, and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of opening potassium channels, which comprises administering a compound represented by the following formula (II):

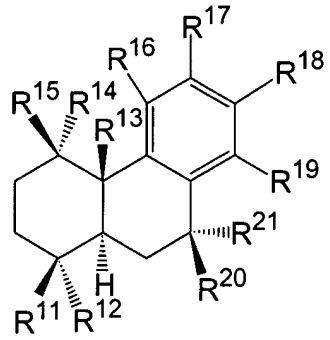


(II)

wherein R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20} and R^{21} are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^{20} and R^{21} may be bonded to each other to form oxo,

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein the compound is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R^{12} is acyl, carboxyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide or nitrile;

R^{11}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20} and R^{21} are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^{20} and R^{21} may be bonded to each other to form oxo.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17 or 18, wherein R^{11}, R^{13}, and R^{18} are alkyls, R^{12} is carboxyl, R^{14}, R^{15} and R^{16} are hydrogen, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17 or 18, wherein R^{11}, R^{13} and R^{18} are alkyls, R^{12} is carboxyl, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{20}, and R^{21} are hydrogen, and R^{17} and R^{19} are halogen, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12 or 17, wherein the potassium channels are calcium-activated potassium channels.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12 or 17, which method is for prevention and/or treatment of essential hypertension, tonic bladder, airway hyperresponsiveness, or ischemic central nervous system disorder.

23. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein said compound is dichlorodehydroabietic acid.